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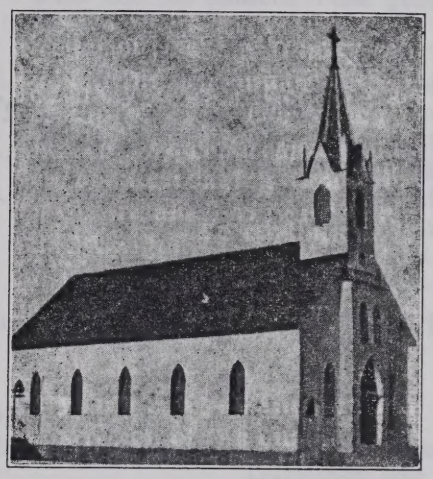
Golden jubilee, 1903-1953,
fiftieth anniversary,

Zap- Luthern Church of St. John

Golden Jubilee



1903 - 1953

Fiftieth Anniversary

Lutheran Church of St. John

Zap, North Dakota

June 28, 1953

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Morgengottesdienst

Gemeindegesang:

1. Nun jauchzt dem Herren alle Welt,
Kommt her, zu seinem Dienst euch stellt,
Kommt mit Frohlocken, saeumet nicht,
Kommt vor sein heilig Angesicht.
2. Erkennt, dasz Gott ist unser Herr,
Der uns erschaffen ihm zur Ehr,
Und nicht wir selbst; durch Gottes Gnad'
Ein jeder Mensch sein Leben hat.
3. Er hat uns ferner wohlbedacht
Und uns zu seinem Volk gemacht,
Zu Schafen, die er ist bereit
Zu fuehren stets auf gruener Weid.
4. Ihr, die ihr bei ihm wollet sein,
Kommt, geht zu seinen Toren ein
Mit Loben durch der Psalmen Klang,
Zu seinem Vorhof mit Gesang.
5. Dankt unserm Gott, lobsinget ihm,
Lobsinget ihm mit lauter Stimm,
Lobsingt und danket allesamt;
Gott loben, das ist unser Amt.

Pastor am Altar: Grusz, Gebet und Schriftverlesung

Chor

Gemeindegesang:

Sei Lob und Ehr dem hoechsten Gut,
Dem Vater aller Guete,
Dem Gott, der alle Wunder tut,
Dem Gott, der mein Gemuete
Mit seinem reichen Trost erfuellt,
Dem Gott, der allen Jammer stillt.
Gebt unserm Gott die Ehre!

2. Es danken dir die Himmelsheer,
O Herrscher aller Thronen,
Und die auf Erden, Luft und Meer
In deinem Schatten wohnen,
Die preisen deine Schoepfersmacht,
Die alles also wohl bedacht.
Gebt unserm Gott die Ehre!

3. Was unser Gott geschaffen hat,
Das will er auch erhalten,
Darueber will er frueh und spat
Mit seiner Gnade walten.
In seinem ganzen Koenigreich
Ist alles recht und alles gleich.
Gebt unserm Gott die Ehre!

4. Der Herr ist noch und nimmer nicht
Von seinem Volk geschieden,
Er bleibet ihre Zuversicht,
Ihr Segen, Heil und Frieden.
Mit Mutterhaenden leitet er
Die Seinen stetig hin und her.
Gebt unserm Gott die Ehre!

5. So kommet vor sein Angesicht
Mit jauchzenvollem Springen,
Bezahlet die gelobte Pflicht
Und laszt uns froehlich singen
Gott hat es alles wohlbedacht
Und alles, alles recht gemacht.
Gebt unserm Gott die Ehre!

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Schriftverlesung

Gemeindegesang:

Hallelujah, Lob, Preis und Ehr
Sei unserm Gott je mehr und mehr
Fuer alle seine Werke;
Von Ewigkeit zu Ewigkeit
Sei in uns allen ihm bereit
Dank, Weisheit, Kraft und Staerke!
Klinget, singet: Heilig, heilig,
Freilich, freilich, heilig ist Gott,
Unser Gott, der Herr Zebaoth!

2. Hallelujah, Preis, Ehr und Macht
Sei auch dem Gotteslamm gebracht,
In dem wir sind erwaehlet,
Das uns mit seinem Blut erkauft,
Damit besprenget und getauft
Und sich mit uns vermaehlet.
Heilig, selig ist die Freundshaft
Und Gemeinschaft, die wir haben
Und darinnen uns erlaben.

3. Halleluja, Gott Heilger Geist,
Sei ewiglich von uns gepreist,
Durch den wir neu geboren,
Der uns mit Glauben ausgeziert,
Dem Braeutigam uns zugefuehrt,
Den Hochzeitstag erkoren.
Eia, ei da! da ist Freude,
Da ist Weide, da ist Manna
Und ein ewig Hosianna.

Predigt gehalten v Pastor Georg Koslowske aus Big Springs, Nebr.

Gebet und Vater Unser

Festkollekte

Gemeindegesang:

1. Erhalt uns deine Lehre
Herr, zu der letzten Zeit,
Erhalt dein Reich, vermehre
Dein' edle Christenheit.
Erhalt standhaften Glauben,
Der Hoffnung Leitsternstrahl;
Lasz uns dein Wort nicht rauben
In diesem Jammertal!

2. Erhalt, was du gebauet
Und durch dein Blut erkauft,
Was du dir hast vertrauet,
Die Kirch, auf welch anlauft
Der grimme Sturm des Drachen,
Sei du ihr Schutz und Wall,
Dasz ob die Welt will krachen,
Sie nimmermahr verfall.

3. Erhalt, Herr, deine Schafe,
Der grimme Wolf kommt an;
Erwach aus deinem Schlafe,
Weil niemand retten kann
Ohn dich, du groszer Hirte.
Leit uns auf gute Weid,
Treib, naehr, erfreu, bewirte
Uns in der wuesten Heid.

4. Erhalt und lasz uns hoeren
Dein Wort, das selig macht,
Den Spiegel deiner Ehren,
Das Licht in dieser Nacht;
Dasz dieser Brunn uns traenke,
Der Himmelstau uns netz,
Dasz diese Richtschnur lenke,
Der Honigseim ergoetz.

Gebet und Segen

Gemeindegesang:

Erhalt in Sturm und Wellen
Dein Haeflein, lasz doch nicht
Uns Wind und Wetter faellen,
Steur selbst dein Schiff und richt
Den Lauf, dasz wir erreichen
Die Anfurt nach der Zeit,
Und hilf uns Segel streichen
In selger Ewigkeit.

Afternoon Service

1. Come, Thou almighty King,
   Help us Thy name to sing,
   Help us to praise.
Father all-glorious,
O'er all victorious,
Come and reign over us,
   Ancient of days.

2. Come, Thou Incarnate Word,
   Gird on Thy mighty sword,
   Our prayer attend.
Come and Thy people bless
And give Thy Word success;
Stablish Thy righteousness,
   Savior and Friend!

3. Come, holy Comforter,
   Thy sacred witness bear
   In this glad hour,
Thou, who almighty art,
Now rule in ev'ry heart
And ne'er from us depart,
   Spirit of Pow'r! Amen.

Pastor: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.
Congregation: Amen.

Pastor: Exhortation . . . . and Versicle
Congregation: Who made heaven and earth,

Pastor: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.
Congregation: And Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.

Pastor: Confession of Sins.

Congregation and Pastor: O most merciful God, who hast given Thine only begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Thy Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of Thee and of Thy will and true obedience to Thy Word, to the end that by Thy grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Chirst, our Lord. Amen.

Pastor: Declaration of Grace. . . . .

Pastor: Introit.

Congregation: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

Lord, have mercy upon us, Christ, have mercy upon us, Lord, have mercy upon us.

Glory be to God on high: And on earth, peace, good will toward men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee, we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee for Thy great glory. O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty. O Lord, the only begotten Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, That takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us. For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord. Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Pastor: The Lord be with you.
Congregation: And with thy spirit.

Pastor: The Collect for the day
Congregation: Amen. (Congregation seated)

Pastor: The Epistle for the day
Congregation: Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Choir

Pastor: The Gospel for the day. At announcement congregation sings: Glory be to Thee, O Lord! At conclusion: Praise be to Thee, O Christ!

Pastor and Congregation: The Apostles' Creed.

Hymn by the congregation:

1. Glorious things of thee are spoken,
Zion, city of our God;
He whose word cannot be broken
Formed thee for His own abode.
On the Rock of Ages founded,
What can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded,
Thou may'st smile at all thy foes.

2. See, the streams of living waters
Springing from eternal love
Well supply thy sons and daughters
And all fear of want remove.
Who can faint while such a river
Ever flows their thirst t'assuage -
Grace, which, like the Lord, the Giver,
Never fails from age to age?

3. Round each habitation hov'ring,
See the cloud and fire appear,
For a glory and a cov'ring,
Showing that the Lord is near.
Thus they march, the pillar leading,
Light by night and shade by day,
Daily on the manna feeding
Which He gives them when they pray.

4. Savior, since of Zion's city
I thro' grace a member am,
Let the world deride or pity,
I will glory in Thy name.
Fading is the worldling's pleasure,
All his boasted pomp and show;
Solid joys and lasting treasure
None but Zion's children know. Amen.

Sermon by the Rev. George Koslowske of Big Springs, Nebraska

Congregation: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence; and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation; and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

The Offering.

Prayer and Lord's Prayer (in unison).

Hymn by the congregation:

1. For many years, O God of grace
This church has been Thy dwelling-place
And we Thy congregation.
Upon the precious Cornerstone
Our faith is built, and Christ alone
Is still our one Foundation.
Today we pray: "Let us greet Thee,
Lord, and meet Thee, Here with singing,
All our praises to Thee bringing."

2. Here children have been born anew
As manifold as morning dew,
Their vows to Thee confessing.
Here many found a table spread,
They ate Christ's body with the bread
And drank the cup of blessing.
Today we pray: "Let none falter
At thine altar. We adore Thee,
Glady worship here before Thee."

3. Here when the marriage vows were made,
Both bride and groom besought Thine aid,
Thy love their own transcending.
Here mourners, with their troubled hearts,
Have found the peace Thy Word imparts,
The joy that has no ending.
Today we pray: "May the story Of Thy glory
Here resounding Be a song of grace abounding!"
Amen.

Pastor: Collect
Congregation: Amen.

Pastor: Benediction
Congregation: Amen, Amen, Amen.

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Silent Prayer.

A Brief History of the Congregation

St. John's Lutheran Church, Zap, North Dakota, was organized in the year 1903. The date appears to have been Jan. 6, and the organizational meeting was held in the home of Mr. Martin Weidner, located about two miles southwest of the present church.

Already two years previous Pastor J. Matthias of Hannover had conducted services for the settlers who had come to take up a homestead or to buy land in this part of the state.

In the meeting on January 6 it was decided to call this new settlement Wuerttemberg, and to adopt for the congregation the name St. John's Lutheran Church at Wuerttemberg. Charter members were: Messrs. Adolf Schlender, Adam Herrmann, Adam Weigum, Hieronymus Laible, George Weigum, Jacob Krukenberg. Gottlieb Krukenberg, Friedrich Brunmeier, George Michael Weigum, Adam Miller, Martin Weidner. At this writing two of the charter members are still living, Mr. Adam Herrmann (Zap) and Mr. Friedrich Brunmeier (Billings, Montana).

Since the congregation was at the time too small to have its own pastor, it formed a parish together with Immanuel Lutheran Church near Hazen and was served by the pastors of this parish:

The Rev. J. A. Duerr, Nov. 1902 to July 1905
The Rev. Wm. Schmook, August 1905 to May, 1909
The Rev. P. F. Siegel, Feb. 1910 to 1912
The Rev. E. Bliss, 1912 to 1913

During the first years of its existence the services of the congregation were held in the home of Messrs. Martin Weidner and Martin Frasch. In the year 1907, however, the congregation built its first church. It measured 22 by 24 feet, excluding the chancel and the vestibule. This church was dedicated on Aug. 18, 1907 with festival services conducted by Pastors Wm. Schmook and J. H. C. Hinck of the Underwood-Garrison parish. The land on which the church was erected was donated by Mr. Friedrich Kasimir.

In the spring of 1914 the congregation decided to call its own pastor and to build a parsonage and a barn. Messrs. Daniel Walz, Gustave Thomas, and Friedrich Brunmeier served on the building committee. Mr. Adam Herrmann donated ten acres of land to serve as a pasture, since horse and buggy were at the time the way pastor and people got from place to place. For the protection of the teams used to bring the families to church a barn was built by a number of members, measuring 14 by 28 feet. Erected in 1917 this barn was destroyed by fire in 1949.

The First Church

As the first resident pastor Candidate Walter Feddersen was installed on Aug. 23, 1914 by Pastor F. W. Kaul of Dodge (Defiance). Pastor Feddersen served the congregation until the year 1920 and was succeeded by Candidate George Koslowske who was installed by Pastor M. A. Berner of Hazen. During the pastorate of the Rev. Koslowske the present church, measuring 30 by 60 feet, was erected at a cost of approximately $10,000. The new church was dedicated on Oct. 10, 1926, the Rev. F. W. Wohlfeil (Hazen), Ralph T. Schuricht (New Salem), and Herbert Trinklein (Beach) serving as guest speakers.

Three years later, on June 9, 1929, the congregation observed the 25th anniversary of its organization with Pastors Wm. Schmook (Santa Ana, Calif.) and H. Gericke (Dodge) serving as guest speakers.

The congregation at an early date acquired a cemetery, the land having been donated by Mr. Friedrich Kasimir. This cemetery was dedicated on Ascension Day, May 1, 1913, by Pastor E. Bliss. In 1918 the cemetery was laid out in lots, and in 1919 a cemetery constitution was adopted.

Repeatedly the congregation endeavored to establish a Christian Day School and had such a school in the years 1927 to 1930 and again from 1937 to 1938. The following served as teachers: Messrs. Henry Schoenbeck, Erhardt Knittel, and Martin Wegehaupt.

In the year 1936, from June 16 to 23, St. John's congregation was host to the convention of the North Dakota District.

The Parsonage as it stood at Wuerttemberg

Pastor George Koslowske already conducted services in the village of Zap, but it was not until the year 1938 that definite steps were taken to provide regular services for the members living in the village. In that year a building committee was elected consisting of Messrs. Adam Herrmann, Fred Mittelsteadt, and Sam Miller, Sr. A basement was built on property donated by Mr. Adam Herrmann and onto this a church was moved which had stood about seven miles north of Beulah. The purchase price was $400 including furnishings. Messrs. Sam Miller, Sr. and Adam Weigum were elected to serve as elders of the Zap members. In a later meeting Mr. Geo. Miller was elected in place of Mr. Adam Weigum. On Sept. 12, 1943 it was resolved to permit the Zap members to organize their own congregation and to form a parish together with St. John's. Thus St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Zap is a daughter congregation of St. John's. On April 29, 1945 the deed of St. Luke's church was transferred to the congregation by St. John's.

To make it more convenient for the pastor, especially in sending his children to school, the congregation in the year 1948 elected a parsonage moving committee, consisting of the following: Messrs. Carl Morast, Theodore Herrmann, Herman Walz, Fred Mittelsteadt, Reinhold Krukenberg, and John Wiedrich. The parsonage was moved to its present location in Zap in June, 1948. Electric lights were installed in the parsonage and also in the church in 1945.

Besides those already mentioned the following pastors served St. John's congregation:

the Rev. Theo. Hilgendorf, 1930 to 1937;
the Rev. Walter Link, 1938 to 1940;
the Rev. Samuel Meske, 1940 to 1943;
the Rev. Hans Wiedenmann, 1944 to 1948;
the Rev. C. Baumung, 1948 to 1951;
the Rev. Herbert Burgdorf, since 1952.

The congregation at present numbers 115 souls; 81 communicants; 27 voting members. It has a Sunday school with an enrolment of 32 pupils, including the junior Bible class, and a ladies aid with a membership of 11. The young people's society is conducted jointly with St. Luke's in Zap and numbers 21 members. The present officers of the congregation are: Pastor: the Rev. Herbert Burgdorf; Chairman, Mr. Wm. Walz; Elders, Messrs. Carl Morast and Jake Weigum; Trustees: Messrs. Edgar Weiss, Martwyn Herrmann, and Adolf Mittelsteadt; Treasurers, Messrs. Martwyn Herrmann and Ernest Weigum; Secretary, Mr. Adolf Mittelsteadt.

Having for fifty years enjoyed the preaching of God's pure Word and the administration of the unadulterated Sacraments, St. John's congregation praises the Lord for this undeserved grace. May the golden jubilee which it is privileged to celebrate cause all its members more deeply to appreciate the priceless blessings which they have in the past enjoyed in their church, to rededicate themselves to the service of God who has showered such blessings upon them, and to ask Him for strength to remain faithful to Him and His Word unto the end.

"Let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us; and establish Thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands establish Thou it." Psalm 90:17.

Soli Deo Gloria!

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